

Serial No. 09/697,269

Page 2 of 10

IN THE CLAIMS

Please consider the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) In an interactive information distribution system utilizing an open session to provide requested information, a method comprising:

- (a) receiving a title selection request from a set top terminal; and
- (b) if the title selection request is an initial ~~in the case of a first~~ request for said title by said set top terminal, performing the steps of:

opening a session with said set top terminal including determining, at a network management system, a use time associated with said requested title;

sending the determined use time to a session control manager;

monitoring, at said a session control manager, said a use time associated with said requested title;

streaming said requested title to said set top terminal for display within constraints of said use time; and

- (c) if the title selection request is a subsequent request for said title ~~in the case of a~~ previously terminated session with said set top terminal existing, performing the steps of:

restoring said terminated session; and

providing said requested title to said set top terminal if said use time associated with said requested title has not expired.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises the step of: associating a view time with said requested title.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim step 2, wherein at step (c) said requested ~~selected~~ title is not provided to said set top terminal if said view time associated with said requested title has expired.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (c) further comprises the steps of:

376006-1

Serial No. 09/697,269
Page 3 of 10

opening a new session with said set top terminal if said use time associated with said requested title has expired;

associating a new use time with said requested title; and
providing said requested title to said set top terminal.

5. (original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

(d) opening a new session with said set top terminal if said view time associated with said requested title has expired;

associating a new use time and a new view time with said requested title; and
providing said requested title to said set top terminal.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at step (c) said selected title is provided to said set top terminal beginning at a previous termination point.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at step (c) said selected title is provided to said set top terminal beginning at a title start point.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said set top terminal has associated with it an account, said account being billed for providing said requested title to said set top terminal; and

said use time defines the time within which said requested title may be accessed by said set top terminal without incurring an additional billing charge.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said set top terminal has associated with it an account, said account being billed for providing said requested title to said set top terminal; and

said view time defines the amount of time that said requested title may be presented by said set top terminal without incurring an additional billing charge.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

376006-1

Serial No. 09/697,269
Page 4 of 10

(d) terminating an open session in response to said use time associated with said requested title being expired.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said open session is terminated at step (d) only after said set top terminal has concluded presenting said requested title.

12. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein said open session is terminated at step (d) only after said set top terminal has requested that the providing of said requested title be halted.

13. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

(d) terminating an open session in response to said view time associated with said requested title being expired.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein said open session is terminated at step (d) only after said set top terminal has concluded presenting said requested title.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein said open session is terminated at step (d) only after said set top terminal has requested that the providing of said requested title be halted.

16. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein:

said view time is incremented while said requested title is presented by said set top terminal, said incrementing of said view time being halted in response to receiving a command indicative of a halt to said presentation.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said command indicative of a halt to said presentation comprises one of a stop command and a pause command.

18. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein:

376006-1

Serial No. 09/697,269
Page 5 of 10

said view time is incremented while said requested title is presented by said set top terminal, said incrementing of said view time being halted in response to receiving a command causing said providing of said requested title to said set top terminal to cease.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving a title selection request comprises:

providing a menu including at least one title from provider equipment of said information distribution system to said set top terminal, where a user is enabled to select said at least one title.

376006-1